

2163 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2605

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
2930 WETMORE AVENUE, SUITE 9F  
EVERETT, WA 98201  
(425) 252-3188

119 N. COMMERCIAL STREET, SUITE 275  
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225  
(360) 733-4500

E-Mail: [Rick.Larsen@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rick.Larsen@mail.house.gov)  
<http://larsen.house.gov>

RICK LARSEN  
2ND DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4702

COMMITTEES:  
TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
CHAIR, SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON AVIATION

ARMED SERVICES

December 18, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chair  
House Energy & Commerce Committee  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Pallone:

I request your immediate attention to the decision by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to withhold distribution of a large percentage of COVID-19 vaccine doses. These vaccines must be distributed expeditiously and HHS must be transparent in its decision making. I ask you to use your position as Chair to demand immediate answers from HHS leadership on cuts to vaccine distribution.

HHS has told states it will withhold up to 40 percent of initial vaccine doses, despite Pfizer's clarification there is no delay in vaccine production. For Washington state, the next allocation will be 44,850 doses, instead of the expected 74,100. Curtailing vaccine distribution puts more health care workers, first responders and other high-risk populations at risk of exposure to the virus. Contradictory statements undermine an already challenging public health campaign that requires close coordination among partners.

Thank you for your attention to my request and your continued leadership in protecting Americans' health.

Sincerely,



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress  
Washington State, 2<sup>nd</sup> District